

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

January 26, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of BellSouth employees in Alexandria, I am writing to urge you to move swiftly to approve BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market in Louisiana.

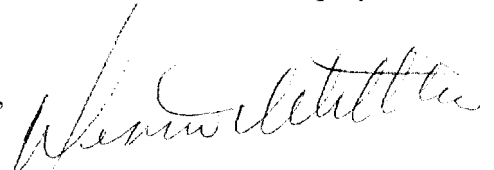
Following passage of the Telecommunications Act last year, BellSouth began addressing the requirements set forth for entering the long-distance market and has now fully opened its local market to competition. However, so far, no long-distance providers have chosen to enter the local market in our area, probably because it is more costly to serve communities like ours with a higher concentration of small businesses.

Unfortunately, this dearth of competition penalizes our customers who must deal with many providers for their telecommunications needs. Furthermore, we as employees are being penalized because we cannot provide the full complement of services that our customers want. Competition should bring lower prices and innovative products and services as well as the opportunity to select one provider for local, long-distance, wireless, and Internet access services.

Approving BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market will also offer BellSouth employees broader career options within the company as a result of an expanded product line. Most of our highly skilled, motivated employees will welcome the opportunity to continue to grow with BellSouth in our community.

Again, I strongly urge you to agree with the Louisiana Public Commission in their finding that BellSouth's application is in the public interest – of both customers and employees – and approve it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

January 26, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

BellSouth recently submitted to the Federal Communications Commission an application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I strongly support this application and encourage you to move quickly to approve it.

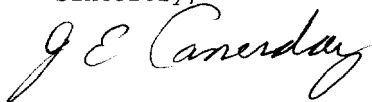
As a BellSouth employee, I am proud to be a part of the major local-service provider in our community. I am also proud of the many positive contributions that we as employees are able to make in our community because of BellSouth's strong commitment to the city.

Since the Telecommunications Act was passed in 1996, preparing the way for opening all telecommunications markets simultaneously, BellSouth has worked diligently to meet the prescribed provisions for opening the local network to competition. We have met all the requirements, and both our application and rate structure were recently endorsed by the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

Now it is time to allow us to do what the Telecommunications Act intended - compete with other long-distance providers for customers in Louisiana. Our customers are confused by dealing with numerous providers for their telecommunications services. When BellSouth enters the long-distance market, we will be able to compete fully with other providers so we can better serve our customers. Opening the market will also expand opportunities for motivated employees to move into other high-paying high-tech jobs within BellSouth.

Please follow the example of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and approve BellSouth's request without delay. We want to provide the best telecommunications service possible to our customers and want to benefit from broadened career advancement opportunities within BellSouth.

Sincerely,



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0+1

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FEB 11 1997

Gary Picou  
1510 Rue Miramon  
Slidell, Louisiana 70458  
(504) 639-0855

FEB 3 11 26 AM '97

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

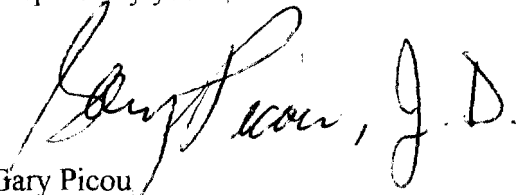
Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I wish you great success in this new endeavor of leadership.

The Federal Communications Commission now has under its review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana. I support BellSouth's application and urge you to approve it without delay.

BellSouth provides my local telephone service, and I have choices in selecting my long-distance, Internet access, and wireless providers. Where choices exist, there are product and service options as well as price competition, but it requires time and effort to keep up with the options and prices, which change frequently. Although there are good choices in some, but not all, market segments, I would like to have a single provider for all of my telecommunications needs.

I urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market so that I along with all the other citizens of the state of Louisiana can truly have a choice.

Respectfully yours,

  
Gary Picou

GEJP:myp

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# *The City of Slidell*

2055 Second Street • P.O. Box 828 • Slidell, Louisiana 70459

Telephone: (504) 646-4333

**SALVATORE A. "SAM" CARUSO, MSW**  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 29, 1998

FILED

FEB 10 1998

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

CC DKT. 97-213

97-231

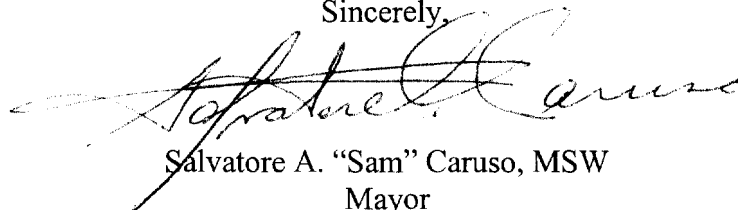
Dear Mr. Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.  
I wish you much success in your new endeavor.

It has come to my attention that Bell South's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana is currently being reviewed by the FCC. Bell South provides local telephone service to many people in this area. There are many product, service and price options available, but one of the choices we would like to have available is that of a single provider for all telecommunication needs. The approval of Bell South's application to enter the long distance market would make that choice available.

Your consideration in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Salvatore A. "Sam" Caruso, MSW  
Mayor

SAC/juv

021  
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**MILLING, BENSON, WOODWARD, HILLYER, PIERSON & MILLER, L.L.P.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATIONS

MCCHORD CARRICO

2140 8th Street

**Mandeville, Louisiana 70471-1814**

TELEPHONE (504) 867-9622

FACSIMILE (504) 867-8364

January 23, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kinnard:

In operating my law practice, one of the largest overhead items is the cost of local and long distance telecommunications services. I was, therefore, pleased when BellSouth in Louisiana applied to the Federal Communications Commission for approval to provide long distance service. As you know, that petition is pending before the FCC.

Allowing BellSouth to become a long distance competitor will add one more significant player to that market and will inevitably drive down long distance costs. It will also provide an incentive necessary to the present long distance companies to provide local service. Such a telecommunications structure will allow me to shop for my telecommunications services as well as give me the option of dealing with one company for all services if I so choose. That freedom of a meaningful choice is what competition is all about.

I have practiced regulatory law since 1969. I understand the intent of Congress passing the Telecommunications Act in 1996 was to provide for open competition. In that regard, BellSouth has, as required, secured the approval of the Louisiana Public Service Commission after full hearing. This matter is now in the hands of the FCC and its commissioners, and I believe it should render a favorable vote.

I respectfully request that the necessary FCC approval be handed down as soon as possible so that businesses and individuals can fully benefit from deregulation of this industry.

Very truly yours,



CMC/dtt

file copy filed rec'd 041  
JAN 23 1998

EX PARTITION LATE FILED

January 15, 1998

FEB 5 6 00 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As you consider BellSouth's request to provide long distance service in Louisiana, we urge you to take into account the opinions of retired BellSouth employees who have served this company well for many, many years. We continue to serve our company and our community through our volunteer work with the Crescent City Life Member Club of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers. As officers of the club, we are writing to you to express our opinion, and the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees, on our company's long distance application. In fact, other Life Member Clubs throughout the state will likely send you a copy of this same letter, as well.

Our volunteer activities in the community keep us in constant contact with the elderly, the disabled and people on fixed incomes. These are the people who are most in need of a helping hand, as their financial resources are limited and every day tasks are more difficult to accomplish. These are also the people who would most benefit from your approval of BellSouth's request. For them, the telephone is a lifeline and a primary means of contacting the outside world.

Our company has promised to lower long distance rates by five percent, and that means big savings to people with limited monthly incomes. They don't make very many long distance calls and do not qualify for volume discounts. In addition, once BellSouth can provide both local and long distance service, customers can once again pick one company to provide all their telephone services, just like it used to be in the good old days of Ma Bell. This will make life much simpler for people who have to depend on others to handle their every day affairs.

As retired BellSouth employees and as volunteers in our community, we implore you to approve BellSouth's request and let our company provide long distance service in Louisiana. It will benefit the members of our community who need help the most.

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List ABCDE

021

Sincerely,

Patricia Lemnard  
James J. Ferraro  
Wilma B. Reed  
Rita L. Moragne  
Evelyn Combsant

Carol Cerrini Joyce Daigle  
Margie Walle Ruth Haas

Helen Brunsard Kathleen Landrum



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FEB 18 1998

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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JAMES H. PRINCE  
Vice President  
Controller  
Chief Accounting Officer

P. O. Box 52807  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505  
625 East Kaliste Saloom Road  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508  
Telephone: (318) 237-0410  
Fax: (318) 232-8061

January 28, 1998

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Mr. Kennard:

As an officer of an energy business based in Lafayette, Louisiana and also a resident, I would like to express my feeling regarding BellSouth's application to offer expanded long-distance serve in Louisiana. I strongly support such request and believe that such approval will provide increased competition in the area of telecommunications in our state.

As a businessman, I am philosophically opposed to any restraints on the free market system and believe that a large, trusted, local company such as BellSouth entering the long-distance market has no downside. As you are aware, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has already studied this matter extensively and independently approved their long-distance application. Further, it is my understanding that BellSouth has worked diligently to see that their local markets have been opened to competition and complied with all fourteen points on the checklist resulting from the passage of the Telecommunications Act.

Business and residential customers in the Lafayette area have been well served by BellSouth for many years. It is my belief, by allowing them to add long-distance service to their other communications services will provide a great benefit to us. Finally, with BellSouth entering the long-distance service arena, we would have the option of choosing a single provider for all of our telecommunication services. Thus, I endorse BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market in Louisiana and urge you to approve their application.

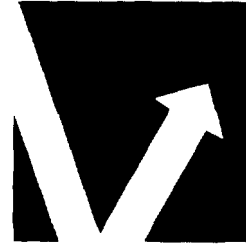
Very truly yours,

  
James H. Prince

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00X-1-11-2017



**Volunteer  
and  
Information  
Agency**

UNITED WAY MEMBER AGENCY

January 28, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I wish you great success in this new and exciting endeavor of leadership.

The Federal Communications Commission now has under its review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana. I support BellSouth's application and urge you to approve it without delay.

BellSouth provides my local telephone service, and I have choices in selecting my long-distance, Internet access, and wireless providers. Where choices exist, there are product and service options as well as price competition, but it requires time and effort to keep up with the options and prices, which are always changing. Some of these choices are good options, but not all, market segments, I would like to have single provider for all of my telecommunication needs.

The time is now for BellSouth to enter the long-distance market and compete with the existing providers. When this happens, the long-distance providers will expedite their entry into the local service market, and full competition in every segment of the telecommunications industry will come to our community. As consumers, we will then have more options of providers, products, and services, and prices will decrease. We will also have the chance to select, of our choice, one provider and consolidate services, which will save our agency time, effort, and ultimately, money.

We urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market so that I alone with all the other citizens of the state of Louisiana can truly have a choice. Kindly place my letter of support with the Bell South official filing record. Thank you.

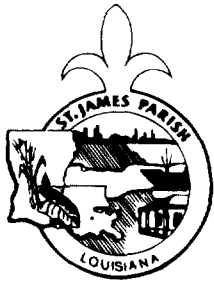
Sincerely,

*Gail McGlothlin*  
Gail McGlothlin  
CEO

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*Winner 1993 Managing For Excellence Award*





# Office of the President

*St. James Parish*

P. O. Box 106

Convent, Louisiana 70723-0106

562-2300 265-3915 265-3156

T.D.D. 562-2200

**Dale J. Hymel, Jr.**  
President

January 29, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a economic development leader in St. James Parish, I am writing on behalf of the thousands of citizens who live and work in this growing community to encourage you to support BellSouth's request to be a long-distance service provider in Louisiana.

St. James Parish is located just outside of New Orleans, and most of the businesses that operate in this area are fairly small and family-owned. Business owners striving to grow their businesses are concerned with accomplishing two major objectives--reducing expenses and improving service to their customers.

State-of-the-art telecommunications services that are reasonably priced enable these business owners to achieve their goals. Competition in the telecommunications industry will encourage providers to reduce their prices as well as develop new types of services. This is critical to the economic development of St. James Parish.

I also believe that competition by BellSouth in the long distance business will encourage additional investment in this community's infrastructure by its competitors, which in turn will draw new business and industry to this area. The creation of jobs for the residents of this community will benefit everyone. The businesses and citizens of St. James Parish cannot afford to miss out on these benefits.

I urge you to approve BellSouth's application to be a long-distance provider in Louisiana without delay. It is in the best interest of St. James Parish.

Sincerely,

Edie Michel  
St. James Economic Development Director

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021

**Jody P. Chenier**  
Operations  
Director

**A. J. Laiche**  
Finance  
Director

**Earl A. White**  
Human Resources  
Director

**Gerald J. Falgoust**  
Emergency Preparedness  
Director

004-151517

January 26, 1998

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

BellSouth recently submitted to the Federal Communications Commission an application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I strongly support this application and encourage you to move quickly to approve it.

As a BellSouth employee, I am proud to be a part of the major local-service provider in our community. I am also proud of the many positive contributions that we as employees are able to make in our community because of BellSouth's strong commitment to the city.

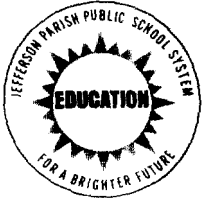
Since the Telecommunications Act was passed in 1996, preparing the way for opening all telecommunications markets simultaneously, BellSouth has worked diligently to meet the prescribed provisions for opening the local network to competition. We have met all the requirements, and both our application and rate structure were recently endorsed by the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

Now it is time to allow us to do what the Telecommunications Act intended - compete with other long-distance providers for customers in Louisiana. Our customers are confused by dealing with numerous providers for their telecommunications services. When BellSouth enters the long-distance market, we will be able to compete fully with other providers so we can better serve our customers. Opening the market will also expand opportunities for motivated employees to move into other high-paying high-tech jobs within BellSouth.

Please follow the example of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and approve BellSouth's request without delay. We want to provide the best telecommunications service possible to our customers and want to benefit from broadened career advancement opportunities within BellSouth.

Sincerely,

*Lawrence L. Lachney*



SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE  
**JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

501 MANHATTAN BOULEVARD  
HARVEY, LOUISIANA 70058-4495  
(504) 349-7802  
FAX: (504) 349-7960

**ELTON M. LAGASSE**  
SUPERINTENDENT

January 20, 1998

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FEB 13 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am very concerned about a decision before the Federal Communications Commission right now on allowing BellSouth to provide long distance phone service and I would like to add my support for BellSouth to the public comments that you are receiving.

I am superintendent of the school system for Jefferson Parish in Louisiana, one of the largest school systems in the New Orleans metropolitan area. Over the years I've been in this position, BellSouth has been a strong supporter of educational excellence and has provided funds, services and training for administrators to help improve schools across the state. This company is an outstanding corporate citizen and certainly a true friend to education and educators.

Our school system benefited greatly this past year from BellSouth's contributions of wiring kits and the technical expertise of BellSouth Pioneer Volunteers to connect our schools to the Internet through a significant NetDay commitment.

In addition, we've been able to take advantage of a BellSouth education discount tariff which makes it much less expensive for our schools to get on line with the Internet. BellSouth was also very helpful in installing Connectionless Data Service which greatly improved our communications within the school system.

We have counted on BellSouth for educational support for many years, and I believe that allowing the company to provide long distance service will better enable BellSouth to continue providing that support in the future. The revenue BellSouth gets from long distance service will help to support universal service and the kinds of discounts we now have for education. Removing artificial barriers like the current calling zones we allow some Louisiana school systems that are split be a calling zone to take full advantage of the discounts BellSouth offers and to serve their students at a lower cost. The ability to deal with just one company for all of our services would certainly lift some of our

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Chairman Kennard  
Page 2


administrative burdens, and I believe we would also get lower rates on our long distance service.

Allowing <sup>its</sup> BellSouth to provide long distance service should also stimulate competition, prodding their competitors to offer local service to residences as well as businesses. As these competitors invest in business in Louisiana, including building their own networks, there will be more jobs for our students as they graduate and move into the labor market.

The Telecommunications Act promises schools and libraries access to the information age at discounted prices, a laudable goal for this country. I believe that it will be necessary to allow BellSouth to provide long distance service without restrictions in order to achieve that goal for all citizens and students in Louisiana.

From what I have read and learned over the past year, I believe that BellSouth has met the requirements in the Act to be allowed to provide long distance service. I certainly believe that BellSouth's provision of long distance service is in the best interests of our schools and the public, the ordinary citizens of Louisiana. I urge you to approve BellSouth's application.

Respectfully,



Elton M. Lagasse  
Superintendent

EML:nd



**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**

2220 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
(504) 522-8811 FAX (504) 522-9431

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FEB 18 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 19, 1997

**The Honorable William Kennard**  
**Chairman**  
**Federal Communications Commission**  
**1919 M Street NW**  
**Washington, DC 20554**

91-231

CC DKT. 97-213

**Dear Chairman Kennard:**

***Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.***

***Chairman Kennard, you and your colleagues will soon make an important decision that could benefit the citizens of Louisiana by affording them a choice when calling their associates and loved ones. I want you to know that I support BellSouth's entry into the long distance market. I believe it is in the best interest of my constituents and the citizens throughout the State of Louisiana to allow BellSouth to enter and provide long distance service in Louisiana.***

***My support is based on my belief that competition will lead to lower prices for services, greater choices for consumers and economic development throughout Louisiana. These were the benefits Congress promised its citizens when the Telecommunications Act was passed, in 1996. My constituents deserve those benefits.***

***I am confident that when BellSouth begins serving the long-distance market, the long-distance companies will enter the local residential market to compete for customers. Competition enhances creation and introduction of new products and service packages that will afford consumers a choice of selecting one provider for all their telecommunications needs an options.***

***When companies compete for customers, consumers benefit from lower prices and the development of more attractive products. Some of the providers will build their own telecommunications networks. This will mean more jobs and financial investments in Louisiana. Ultimately, state-of-the-art telecommunications technology will entice new businesses to locate in Louisiana.***



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***The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Page 2***

***From an economic development prospective, greater choices in the long distance business can significantly stimulate new economic development initiatives in a state that has traditionally expanded its economic base on oil dependency.***

***I believe that the Louisiana Public Service Commissioners acted wisely on behalf of the citizens of our State when they endorsed BellSouth's request to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I urge you to encourage your colleagues to join you in approving BellSouth's entry into the long distance market now. I would also like for my letter of support to be entered into the official record of the BellSouth files.***

***Sincerely,***

  
***Douglas Evans  
General Director***

***DE/sjw***

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January 15, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

97-231

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Dear Chairman Kennard:

As executive board members of the Evangeline Council of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers, we would like to express our opinion on BellSouth's application to become a competitive long-distance provider in Louisiana. We wholeheartedly support our company's request, as do all the Pioneer councils throughout this state. In fact, you will probably receive several copies of this letter, signed by executive board members serving on various councils.

Chairman Kennard, as employees we are well informed about the changes taking place in the telecommunications industry, particularly those associated with the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. In fact, each and every day we help our company, our customers and our competitors make the transition to a fully deregulated industry. We know first hand the steps BellSouth has taken to open its network up to its competitors and to allow them access to our operational support systems.

As Pioneers, we also have personal knowledge of our company's responsiveness and dedication to the communities we serve. Not only does BellSouth provide excellent customer service, but the company is also a good corporate citizen. Allowing BellSouth to provide long-distance service will enable us to better serve our customers and to meet their needs. Customers want the convenience of dealing with just one company for all their services, and your approval of BellSouth's application will finally give customers that option.

As employees of BellSouth and as volunteers who serve the communities in which we live and work, we urge you to approve BellSouth's request without delay and to let us take the next step in the deregulatory process.

Sincerely,

Daleon Primeaux, President  
Evangeline Council

Luanne Dupre  
John O. Jammalbo  
Dorothy M. Andrews  
Luis B. Rodriguez

Mona B. Brown  
Lillian J. Brown  
Judy Kiddler

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OH

**DiGiovanni & Associates**  
***Certified Public Accountants***

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

10/10/11 10:27:10 AM

58485 Pearl Acres Rd. Suite C  
Slidell, LA 70461  
Ph. 641-ICPA (1272) Fax 641-2810  
E-mail Joe@Slidell.Com

February 5, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. We hope you enjoy your new leadership position.

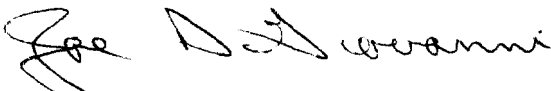
The Federal Communications Commission now has under its review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to business and residential customers in Louisiana. We support BellSouth's application and urge you to approve it without delay.

BellSouth provides my local telephone service, and we have choices in selecting my long distance, Internet access, and wireless providers. Where choices exist, there are product and service options as well as price competition, but it requires time and effort to keep up with the options and prices, which change frequently. Although there are good choices in some service areas, we would like to have a single provider for all of our telecommunications needs.

We urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market so that we, along with all the other citizens of the State of Louisiana, can truly have a choice.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Joe DiGiovanni, CPA

JD/lid

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10 11 15 AM '98



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FEB 11 1998

7939 Devine Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70122  
January 28, 1998

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The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D. C. 20554

91-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Mr. Kennard:

As the new chairman of the FCC, may your tenure be challenging and rewarding as you shape the way this country's citizens communicate among themselves for years to come.

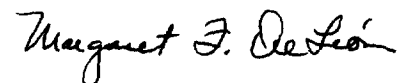
The FCC now has under review BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service to businesses and residents in Louisiana. I support this application and I urge you to approve it without delay.

BellSouth provides the local telephone service to me and my family and to the non-profit for which I work. Thus I have choices in selecting my long-distance, internet access and wireless providers at home and at work. As a consumer I like having choices and I would like to be able to have a single provider for all my telecommunications needs if it seemed advantageous.

The sooner Bellsouth can enter the long distance market, the sooner we in New Orleans will get to benefit from competition in every segment of the telecommunications industry. As consumers, we will also have the chance, as we see fit, to select one provider and consolidate services which will save us time, effort and, ultimately money.

I urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market. Please, place my letter of support with the BellSouth official filing record.

Sincerely yours,



Margaret DeLeon

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021

Marilyn G. Winn  
Senior Vice President  
General Manager



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Telephone  
318-424-5600  
Fax:  
318-424-5653

February 3, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

FEB 10 10 22 AM '98

97-231  
CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I fully support BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market and urge you and your colleagues to expedite the process and approve their application without delay.

Since the Telecommunications Act was passed in 1996, BellSouth has diligently worked to meet the stipulated requirements for entering the long-distance market in Louisiana. During hearings before the Louisiana Public Service Commission, BellSouth demonstrated compliance with all items on the 14-point checklist.

Their networks have been opened to competitors, and they have signed resale and interconnection agreements with numerous companies that specifically want to do business in Louisiana. They demonstrated that their competitive interfaces are operational. Finally, in gaining the endorsement of the commission, BellSouth convinced them that their plan is in the best interest of Louisiana consumers.

BellSouth has followed the specified steps for entering the long-distance market and deserves the opportunity to compete for long-distance service. The final step is the approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

I understand that you have 90 days to rule on BellSouth's request. I urge you and your fellow commissioners to move quickly to approve BellSouth's request before the end of this year.

Sincerely,

Marilyn G. Winn  
Senior Vice President and  
General Manager

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# The St. Bernard Voice

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EDWIN M. ROY, JR.  
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY

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P.O. BOX 88  
ARABI, LOUISIANA 70032

TELEPHONE: (504) 279-7488  
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email: lastbv@bellsouth.net

FEB 10 1998

January 26, 1998

Feb 2 4 44 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N W  
Washington, D. C. 20554

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the editor of a weekly newspaper, *The St. Bernard Voice*, located in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, I would like to express my support for BellSouth's application to provide long distance service to businesses and residential customers.

BellSouth is presently providing my local residential and business service. It would definitely be advantageous in my business to have BellSouth as a single provider for all of my telecommunications needs. BellSouth has always been an excellent provider for both service and price.

It is now time to let BellSouth enter the long distance market. When this takes place, other long distance providers, I am sure, will speed up their attempts to enter into the local service market, and we will have full competition in every aspect of the telecommunications industry.

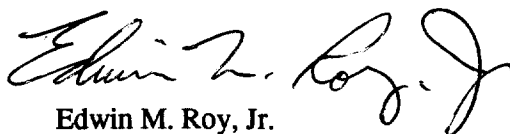
Local, residential and business customers then will have even more options through the open market process which, I believe, will cause prices to decline.

Of utmost importance is the ability to have one provider which will allow us to consolidate services.

I urge you to approve BellSouth's application to enter into the long distance market.

Would you please place this letter of support with the BellSouth official filing record?

Sincerely,



Edwin M. Roy, Jr.  
Editor, *The St. Bernard Voice*

EMR/ad

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021



**St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation**

*...to foster an environment that will be conducive to the establishment, expansion and retention of those enterprises which will generate financial benefit for the residents of our Parish while promoting our quality of life.*

January 29, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

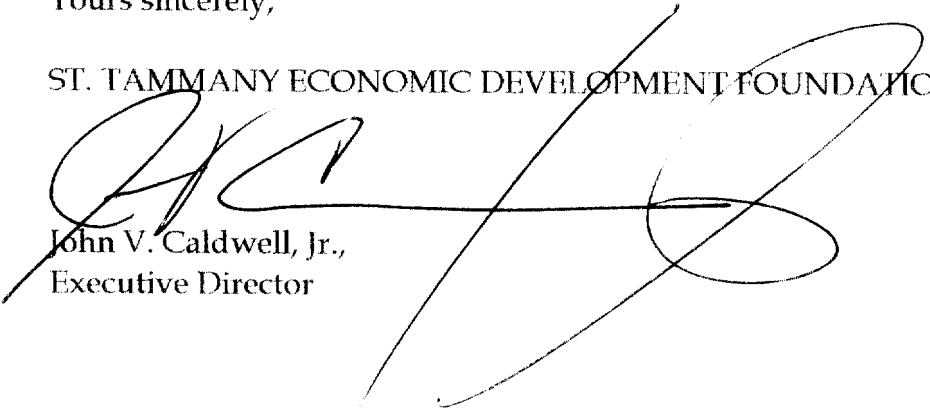
One of the missions of the St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation is to promote the economic well being of the businesses and citizens of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. It is our belief that competition brings lower costs and better service to consumers.

BellSouth Corporation has requested authorization to begin providing long-distance service to its customers in Louisiana. Competition among long-distance providers will give the businesses and citizens of St. Tammany Parish better service and lower costs.

The STEDEF supports competition, and requests that BellSouth, in furtherance of competition, be granted the right to offer long-distance telephone service to the people of Louisiana.

Yours sincerely,

ST. TAMMANY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

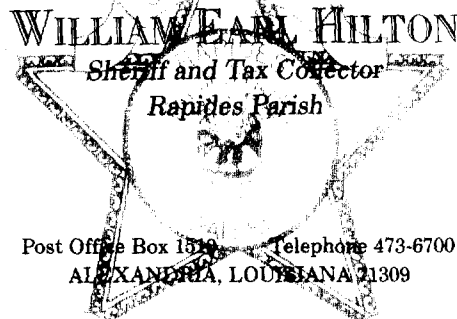
  
John V. Caldwell, Jr.,  
Executive Director

333 Gause Boulevard, Suite 201  
Slidell, Louisiana 70458  
(504) 643-3830  
FAX: (504) 649-3780

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FEB 13 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 29, 1998

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The people of Rapides Parish, a rural parish in central Louisiana, deserve the benefits promised by Congress when the telecommunications industry was deregulated two years ago. However, not much has changed in this part of the country and I am asking you to turn this around by approving BellSouth's request to become a long distance provider.

As I understand it, the Telecommunications Act was designed to open up all telecommunications markets and allow companies to compete with each other on a level playing field. In the long run, the customer will be the winner, benefiting from reduced prices, increased choices, better service and more convenience. As an elected official, I want my constituents to be able to take advantage of those benefits, without further delay.

I believe if you approve BellSouth's request, rates for both local and long distance service will go down as competition increases. It happens in every newly deregulated industry. The more companies that enter the market, the more choices among providers and service offerings consumers will have. Surely companies will work to improve their customer service as they try to create a customer base, and enabling each company to provide a variety of services gives consumers the option of choosing one company for all their needs.

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The Honorable William Kennard  
January 29, 1998  
Page two

Please vote "yes" on BellSouth's application and encourage your fellow commissioners to do the same. It is in the best interest of Louisiana citizens.

Sincerely yours,

PARISH OF RAPIDES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Earl Hilton".

William Earl Hilton  
Sheriff

WEH/gar

**TIOGA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

P. O. Box 639  
Tioga, Louisiana 71477

01/26/98 10:00 AM  
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Tommy Stepp, Principal

January 26, 1998

1998 1 26 10:00

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

97-231

CC DKT. 97-213

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse Bell South's application to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana and to urge you to move swiftly to approve it.


Several years ago, Tioga Junior High School was lucky to be selected as BellSouth's adopted school. It has been the best thing that has happened to our school, its students, and their teachers.

BellSouth has spent untold hours and considerable energy to bring our school into the Information Age. They wired our school for Internet access and trained our teachers and administrators to maximize time spent on the Internet. In short, they are bringing our students the resources to enable them to be productive citizens able to compete in the future job market.

In addition to their participation in NetDay, BellSouth employees have donated hours of their valuable time to help our students. BellSouth has awarded mini-grants to our teachers to implement innovative programs in their classrooms and given us considerable furniture and other equipment that we would never be able to purchase.

Chairman Kennard, BellSouth's commitment to and involvement with Tioga Junior High School is a clear example of the care with which they treat their customers. I believe they have earned the right to expand into long-distance service, and I hope you will approve their application.

Sincerely,

  
Tommy Stepp, Principal

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